

Message Text

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62

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02 ACDA-10

NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-15 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1031

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

UNCLAS LONDON 07142

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UK, SP, PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: BRITISH/PRESS ON US INTEREST IN SPANISH LINK
TO NATO

1. "FINANCIAL TIMES" MAY 10 CARRIES STORY BY ITS US
EDITOR, PAUL LEWIS, DATELINED WASHINGTON, THAT THE FORD
ADMINISTRATION IS "QUIETLY NUDGING" BRITAIN AND OTHER
NATO ALLIES TO ACCEPT CLOSER DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP WITH
SPAIN AS PART OF A NEW AGREEMENT EXTENDING US MILITARY
BASING RIGHTS IN SPAIN. LEWIS NOTES SPANISH DESIRE FOR
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FORMAL DEFENSE TREATY WITH US OR LINK WITH NATO, U.S.
CONGRESSIONAL OPPOSITION TO FORMER, AND EUROPEAN HOSTILITY

TO LATTER.

2. HOWEVER, LEWIS CONTINUES, ALL NATO MEMBERS "ARE ANXIOUS ABOUT THE POLITICAL OUTLOOK IN SPAIN AND EAGER BOTH TO ENCOURAGE A MODERATE DEMOCRATIC REGIME AS THE SUCCESSOR TO GENERAL FRANCO AND INTEGRATE IT AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE INTO THE WESTERN SYSTEM." THESE CONCERNS, ACCORDING TO LEWIS, WERE DISCUSSED BRIEFLY DURING SECRETARY'S WORKING DINNER WITH PRIME MINISTER WILSON MAY 7.

RICHARDSON

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NNN

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